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Necessity for National Organization for War

Dependence of War on Economic Resources Renders Necessary Adjustment of Industries to War Purposes and Urgent Practice of Economy and Saving.

Stephen Leacock, the eminent Canadian economist, has contributed an especially valuable article, which has been issued in pamphlet form and distributed by the National Service Board. It meets so completely our ideas and aims that we take the liberty of using excerpts from it, especially since it has had very little circulation in British Columbia, in the hope that it might contribute toward bringing about a condition of thrift and saving which will subserve the interests of the State in this crisis of war, and give to each individual a sense of helping win the war in this hour of trial.

Professor Leacock points out the critical position of the British Empire and the state of the contestants as at present. The Canadian soldier is doing "all that heroism can inspire and all that endurance can fulfill; are we doing our share at home?"

"This is a war economy." Professor Leacock shows that much of our energy and industry has not only no bearing on the war but that it amounts to an actual drain on our resources for waging war. He points out the fact of war stimulating prosperity and enforces the attention with its uneconomic foundation.

But here let him speak for himself:

"What then are we to do? By what means can we change from an economy of peace and industrial selfishness to an economy of effort and national sacrifice?"

"There are two ways in which this can be done; one that is heroic and impossible, another that lies easy to our hand.

"The first is the method that nations adopt only in their despair, only in the last agonies of foreign conquest, as when Richmond fell, or when the Boers fought on in grim desperation across the naked veldt. Here national production ends, save only for necessary food and war supplies. Private industry is gone. Luxury is dead. All of the nation's men are gathered in a single band. They do as they are told. They fight, they work, they die. Its women are in the fields; or they are making bandages; they tend the sick; they pray beside the dying.

"Thus can a nation stand, grim and terrible, its back

against the wall, till it goes down, all in one heap, glorious. In the wild onslaughts of the great conquests of the past, nations have died like this.

"But for us, here and now, and in the short time that we have, this is not possible. Outside invasion could force us to it, in a jumbled wreck, with no choice of our own. But to accomplish this at a word of command inside our present complex industrial system is not possible. It is too intricate, too complicated, to be done by command

from above. To enlist every man and woman in an industrial army, to direct their work and assign their rations—in other words, to create an ideal national war machine—is a task beyond the power of government. Years of preparation would be needed.

"What we do must be done from below, using, as best we can, the only driving force that we know—the will of the individual. We must find a means that will begin to twist and distort our national industry out of its present shape till it begins to take on the form of national organization for war.

"To do this we must exchange war prosperity for war adversity, self-imposed and in deadly earnest.

"The key to the situation, as far as we can unlock it, lies in individual thrift and individual sacrifice. Let there be no more luxuries, no wasted work, no drones to keep, out of the national production.

"Every man, today, who consumes any article or employs any service not absolutely necessary, aims a blow at his country.

"Save every cent. Live plainly. Do without everything. Rise early, work hard, and content yourself with a bare living. The man who does this—if he uses the saved money properly—is doing war work for his country. He may wrap his last year's coat about him and eat his bread and cheese and feel that he, too, is doing something to show the world the kind of stuff that is yet left in it.

"But he must use his savings properly. That is the whole essence of the matter.

"Let us see what this implies. If the idea of National Thrift were really to spread among us, there would be no more purchases of mere luxuries, or things that could be done without; no more motors, no theatres (save where the work is voluntary and the money for the war), no new

"To the People of Canada:

"The prospectus of the third Canadian domestic war loan appears today in the press throughout the Dominion. From the purely investment standpoint no more attractive issue has ever been placed before the Canadian public. In this connection it is also to be observed that the securities offered, being of the long date class, are certain to appreciate by many points when interest rates become more normal in the period succeeding the termination of the war. Financial institutions and skilled investors require no special advice, but it is particularly to be desired that citizens of moderate means should not miss the opportunity of participating in this notably advantageous offering. As the issue is to be listed, ready facilities will be available to those desiring at any time of converting their holdings into cash. Aside from these practical considerations, it is to be expected that Canada will, at this critical time, demonstrate to the world, even more signally than in the past, the financial strength, unity of purpose, and indelible determination of her people. There were 35,000 subscribers to the last war loan. Let us make it double that number this time. The securities are being issued in denominations to suit the purses of all investors. Subscriptions large or small are welcome. The Government confidently appeals to the patriotism of the Canadian people to make this issue an overwhelming success. Every man and woman can aid in winning the war by becoming a subscriber to the third and greatest Canadian war loan.

"W. T. WHITE,
"Minister of Finance."